1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2007-08	833.50	867.90	1701.40	88.74	1790.14	1745.53
2008-09	742.14	1243.66	1985.80	43.77	2029.57	2128.90
TOTAL	3372.43	3109.64	6582.22	803.23	7385,45	7224.75

Usage of science and technology in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

3177. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of propagation, dissemination and usage of Science and Technology in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(b) the steps that are proposed to further strengthen and disseminate the Science and Technology in the two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (b) The Department of Science and Technology has a specific plan scheme titled "Science and Technology Communication and Popularisation" with the objective to communicate Science and Technology and inculcate scientific temper among people across the country including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In order to propagate, disseminate and use Science and Technology, various activities such as National Children's Science Congress; National Science Day; Science Exhibitions; Water Resource and Ecosystems Management; Women and Child-Health and Nutrition Programme; Motivational Programme for Talented School Students; Explaining science behind Miracle; Training Workshop on Disaster Management; Programme on Detection and Prevention of Food Adulteration; Appreciating Physics in Everyday Life; Year of Planet Earth and Audio-Video Programmes, Films, Activity Kits and Publications have been undertaken in all the States including the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. These activities are planned to be continued in future also.

Caste as a form of discrimination

3178. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether responding to the appeal by Dalit Groups, the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has proposed to recognize caste as a form of discrimination based on descent and birth;

(b) whether Nepal has hailed the UNHRC's proposal as worthy of adoption and has agreed to abide by UNHRC charter on case discrimination; and

(c) whether India is opposed to the internationalization of the caste issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) No Sir. There is no proposal from the United Nations Human Rights Council to recognize caste as a form of discrimination based on descent and birth.

(b) The Government of India cannot comment on the position of other governments.

(c) India has been responding in the appropriate UN fora on questions relating to caste-based discrimination.

Government incentives to employers in private sector

3179. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to provide incentives to employers in the private sector for providing employment to the physically challenged persons is being implemented by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of private employers towards this scheme;

(d) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for private sector to provide employment to physically challenged persons by enacting a law for that purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scheme of Incentives for employers in the Private Sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities has been launched, w.e.f. 01.04.2008. Under this Scheme, the Government of India provides the employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for employees with disabilities employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000/-.

(c) Under the scheme 144 persons have been covered by Employees Provident Fund Organisation and 261 persons have been covered by Employees State Insurance Corporation till 30.09.2009. 49 Factories /Establishments have availed this benefit through Employees State Insurance Corporation and 6 Factories/Establishments have availed the benefit through Employees Provident Fund Organization.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no provision for compulsory reservation in private companies for persons with disabilities in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

Dr. Ambedkar Medical Help Programme in Tamil Nadu

3180. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: